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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Make-overs for the Moppets" - Information from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture

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When you were a child...did you ever have to wear made-over clothes that just didn't seem right for you? A made-over coat...so heavy it weighted you down? A dress cut down from one of your mother's...so dark and drab-colored you hated it?

It doesn't have to be like that...make-overs don't need to be make-shifts. You can make something that's just right for a youngster out of a grown-up's old clothes..if you give it some special thought and attention...and think before you cut.

Here's what clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have to say about making over clothes for children.

In the first place...remember that some of the fabrics grown-ups wear just aren't suitable for little people. For instance...too heavy material may burden a small child. So...if the old dress or coat in your closet isn't light enough weight to be comfortable for your youngster...better use it for some other purpose. Another thing...avoid fabrics with large plaids or stripes...so big they won't look right on a child.

Once you've chosen a good fabric to work with...and you're sure it's the right weight and has an appropriate design...look to the color. Is it dull, dark, drab? Then use gay trim or accessories to brighten it up. Maybe a red collar or plaid ascot tie for a little girl's black coat. A bright cap or mittens for the little boy. Pretty buttons on a dark dress. You'll find you'll think of lots of ways to add the note of gaiety children like.

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Also....there's a safety factor to consider....Your child's bright clothes may give the first "slow" signal to a motorist....Or, in rural sections, to a hunter.

But suppose the fabric you'd like to use is a woolen or rayon at the other end of the color scale....It's too pale to be practical for a child. Perhaps you can dye it to a more appropriate color. But be sure you follow the directions on the dye box exactly. If you don't, you may shrink the material.

And one of the most important things of all, say the clothing specialists.... when you're planning a make-over....talk it over with the youngster who is going to wear it. Most times, it's just the little things that make a child like certain clothes. A collar here...a button there....a bit of embroidery....it's just such little things as that....that add up to an outfit your child will wear with pride.

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